Article in the "Trivandrum Express" re Minerals in Travancore.

100. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether their attention has been drawn to the article headed "Minerals in Travancore" that appeared in the *Trivandrum Express* of the 12th April 1927, and, if so, the action taken by them in the matter; and

(*b*) whether the Geological Department has any information on the matter contained in the article, and, if not, what steps have been taken to enquire into the existence of this mineral in the State ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) and (*b*) The matter is engaging attention. The article, however, appeared in the issue of the *Trivandrum Express* dated the 19th and not the 12th April 1927.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to the answer to part (*e*) may I know how many students are at present trained in the institute ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): May I draw the attention of the member that we are at question No. 100 ?

Working of the Textile Institute, Trivandrum.

101. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to the working of the Textile Institute, Trivandrum, will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of looms in stock in the Textile Institute at present (16-7-1928) and the annual cost at which they are worked;

(*b*) the quality and quantity of the annual output of articles from the Textile Institute ;

(*c*) the average annual receipts from the Textile Institute for the past three years (1100-1102);

(*d*) the nature and strength of the staff at present employed in the Textile Institute and the annual cost including establishment and contingencies ;

(*e*) whether all the looms are worked throughout the year, and if not, why ; and

(*f*) the total cost at which these looms are put up ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) 12 ; Rs. 1,080-9-0.

(*b*) A list is available for inspection by the member at the office of the Secretary to the Legislative Council.

(*c*)

Year.	*Rs.*	*ch.*	*c.*
1100	1,529	23	5
1101	1,477	3	4
1102	1,377	20	0
Average	1,461	17	8

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[Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.]

(*d*) Establishment (One foreman on Rs. 35-3/2-50) (One clerk on Rs. 20-2/3-30)	Rs. 900
Contingencies	Rs. 2,468-18-5
Total	Rs. 3,368-18-5.

(*e*) The looms are worked according to requirements. But they are not all worked simultaneously throughout the year as it is not found necessary for the purpose of teaching and demonstration.

	Rs.	*ch.*	*c.*
(*f*) Cost of timber	668	27	10
Labour charges	316	26	9
Total	985	26	3

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to the answer to part (*e*) may I know how many students are at present trained in the institute?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know how many looms are at present working daily in the institute?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): There are only 2 weavers who are piece-workers to work these looms. These looms are not worked as a matter of course every day. They are worked according to necessity. The only hands available for working the looms are the two piece-workers.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether at any time, more than 2 looms could be worked in the institute?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): At a time only 2 looms can be worked in the Institute?

Irrigation works under Section 11 (a) of the Irrigation Regulation.

102. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of irrigation works carried out under the orders of the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, during the last two years (1101-1102) in the taluks of Trivandrum and Neduvangad in pursuance of Section 11 (*a*) of the Irrigation Regulation?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No such works were carried out.

Appointment of Members of Depressed Classes in the Public Service.

103. **MR. K. MADHAVAN** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing orders to the Heads of Departments to give preferential treatment to the members of the depressed classes in the matter of appointments to the public service?

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